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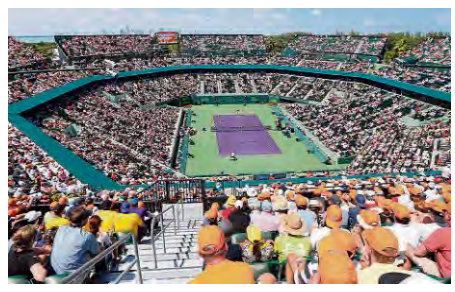

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Miami Herald

H1

U.S. CONGRESS

J. SCOTT APPLEWHITE AP

Speaker of the House Paul Ryan, R-Wisconsin, joined at right by House Ways and Means Committee Chairman Kevin Brady, R-Texas, speaks just after passing the Republican tax reform bill in the House of Representatives on Capitol Hill, in Washington on Tuesday.

GOP on the verge of passing huge tax overhaul

BY JEFF STEIN AND DAMIAN PALETTA
Washington Post

■ Republicans took a critical step on Tuesday toward notching their first significant legislative victory of the year as the House voted along party lines to pass the most sweeping rewrite of the tax code in decades.

Jubilant Republicans pushed on Tuesday to the cusp of the most sweeping rewrite of the nation's tax laws in more than three decades, a bill they say Americans will learn to love when they see their paychecks in the new year. President Donald Trump cheered the lawmakers on, eager to claim his first major legislative victory.

The Senate was preparing to pass the GOP plan Tuesday night, and the House prepared to vote on the measure at 10 a.m. Wednesday and send the measure to Trump shortly afterward.

The sprawling measure would cut the corporate tax rate dramatically, and the vast majority of households would see their income taxes go down in 2018, with the largest savings going to the wealthy. The bill also proposes revising nearly every part of the tax system by restructuring income tax rates and expanding some popular deductions while paring back others.

Late Tuesday, Republicans appear to have the votes they need to pass the measure through the Senate, after holdout Republican Sens. Marco Rubio of

SEE TAX BILL, 2A

SEXUAL MISCONDUCT ALLEGATIONS

Investigation concludes Florida senator's conduct may be criminal

■ In a stunning development, the Senate investigator said another witness came forward with allegations that Sen. Jack Latvala exchanged legislative favors for sex or physical contact.

BY MARY ELLEN KLAS
Herald/Times Tallahassee Bureau

TALLAHASSEE

A Florida Senate investigation into sexual misconduct allegations against Sen. Jack Latvala has been referred to law enforcement after a retired judge found that the Clearwater Republican may have committed both sexual harassment and a sexual assault against multiple women, including allegations of "quid pro quo" physical contact or sexual intimacy "in exchange for support of legislative initiatives."

The special master's report, delivered to the Senate Rules Committee on Tuesday by retired Judge Ronald V. Swanson, concluded there is probable cause to launch an investigation and hearing by the Rules Committee to determine if Latvala is guilty of violating Senate conduct rules and should be sanctioned or removed from office.

In a stunning development, however, the special master also referred the case for criminal investigation, concluding "a witness other than Complainant, and seemingly confirmed in text messages" from Latvala that "appear to violate ethics rules, and may violate laws prohibiting public corruption."

"The Special Master recommends these

SEE LATVALA, 4A

HEALTHCARE

U.S., Cuban researchers join forces to bring lung cancer patients new hope

BY MIMI WHITEFIELD
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■ In a trial in Buffalo, N.Y., scientists want to see how effective a medication widely used to treat cancer in the U.S. would be when paired with a lung cancer vaccine developed in Cuba.

HAVANA

Patients in a clinical trial in Buffalo, N.Y., visit a cancer research institute for monthly doses of a Cuban lung cancer vaccine while scientists in Havana, 1,375 miles away, run their own trials to see if they can make the vaccine even more effective.

These are the two bookends of a unique collaboration between researchers at Roswell Park Cancer Institute and scientists at Cuba's Center of Molecular Immunology (CIM) that began in 2011 after a Cuban researcher visiting the United States offered to give a talk about the Havana center's work.

Roswell scientists visited CIM to learn more and the partnership culminated in U.S. approval in 2016 to carry out the first U.S. clinical trial of a CIM-developed product — the

SEE CUBA, 2A

MEXICO

12 on cruise-arranged tour killed as bus flips in Yucatán

BY JANE WOOLDRIDGE
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■ A dozen cruise-ship passengers on a ship-arranged excursion died after their tour bus flipped on its way to visit ruins in Mexico's Yucatán region.

Twelve cruise-ship passengers on an excursion in Mexico's Yucatán region died after their tour bus flipped on a two-lane highway early Tuesday, officials said. It was one of the deadliest incidents ever related to a cruise ship excursion, several experts said.

The 27 passengers were traveling to the Mayan ruins at Chacchoben, 110 miles south of Tulum, on a shore excursion purchased as part of their cruises aboard Celebrity Equinox and Royal Caribbean's Serenade of the Seas, according to a company spokesperson. Both cruise brands are owned and operated by Miami-based Royal Caribbean Cruises Ltd.

"Our hearts go out to all those involved in the bus accident in Costa Maya," said Royal Caribbean via a

SEE TOUR, 2A

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